

12.160 RUMORS/POTENTIAL CIVIL DISTURBANCES

Reference:

Procedure 12.417 – Hate Crimes: Response to Racial, Religious, Ethnic/National Origin, or Sexual Orientation Bias Incidents

Purpose:

Provide for the documentation, processing, and analyzing of rumors concerning racial problems, civil disturbances, other police problems or services.

Establish policies for handling incidents arising from or indicative of a racial nature and for protecting the civil rights of all citizens.

Establish responsibility and authority of Police Department and Cincinnati Human Relations Commission (CHRC) personnel during field situations.

Policy:

The Cincinnati Police Department will immediately investigate and document incidents of racial tension or civil disturbance.

Procedure:

- A. Processing Rumors Involving Racial Problems, Civil Disturbances, or Other Police Problems:
 1. All members of the Police Department are charged with the following responsibilities concerning rumors:
 - a. Obtain as many pertinent facts as possible.
 - b. Identify the person passing the information and the source of the information, if possible.
 - c. Assess the reliability and credibility of the informant.
 - d. Instruct the informant not to discuss the subject with anyone other than the police.
 - e. Refrain from any words or actions which might lend credibility or incentive to the rumor.
 2. Immediately telephone information involving racial problems, civil disturbances, or public safety issues (motorcycle gangs, terrorism, etc.) to the Intelligence Section if received between 0800 and 1700 hours on weekdays.

- a. During other hours, if the information is determined to need immediate investigation, a supervisor will notify the district commander, the Night Chief, or the Duty Officer who will recall the following appropriate personnel, if necessary:
 - 1) Intelligence Section.
 - 2) CHRC.
- b. Document this information on a Form 17 with copies to the:
 - 1) Police Chief.
 - 2) Investigations Bureau Commander.
 - 3) Patrol Bureau Commander.
 - 4) Originating unit.
- c. The Intelligence Section will coordinate the investigation and evaluate the information in terms of providing intelligence to affected units or agencies.

B. Racial Incidents:

- 1. Police Communications Section (PCS) will dispatch the shift officer in charge (OIC) to the scene. The OIC will evaluate the situation and request PCS dispatch the necessary personnel.
 - a. Use both white officers and black officers, male and female, in teams, when possible.
 - b. Officers will conduct themselves in a neutral, impartial manner. Exercise discreet judgment in policing incidents of this nature.
 - c. Remove the focal point of the crowd or incident from the scene as soon as possible.
 - d. Cooperate with members of the news media.
 - 1) Do not permit the media to take actions that would endanger their safety, the safety of police officers or the public.
 - 2) Access granted the media must be consistent with the needs and goals of public safety and order.
- 2. The shift OIC will execute a Form 17, Interdepartmental Correspondence Sheet, describing the nature of the incident and the action taken and forward copies to the:

- a. Police Chief
 - b. Investigations Bureau Commander, who will route the form to the Intelligence Section.
 - c. Patrol Bureau Commander.
 - d. C.O.P. Coordinator.
 - e. Originating unit.
3. After the initial police action, the Intelligence Section Commander will determine if immediate follow-up action is necessary and initiate the appropriate requests through channels.
- a. The C.O.P. Coordinator will determine if immediate follow-up action is necessary and initiate the appropriate requests through channels.
- C. Utilization of CHRC Field Representatives:
- 1. Upon learning a racial incident exists, the ranking command officer will notify CHRC via PCS and provide the following information:
 - a. Nature of the incident.
 - b. Parties or groups involved.
 - c. Location of the incident and the neighborhood(s) affected.
 - d. Police action already taken or planned.
 - e. Whether immediate CHRC response is requested.
 - 1) Advise response location.
 - 2) Advise name of incident OIC.
 - 2. When CHRC personnel receive information which has the potential for creating a racial incident, they will notify the C.O.P. Coordinator as soon as practical.
 - a. After the normal working hours, if the situation warrants, CHRC will notify PCS.
 - 1) PCS will notify the appropriate command officers.
 - 3. The CHRC Executive Director will coordinate with CHRC field representatives, who will respond as requested and contact the incident OIC.
 - 4. The ranking command officer will determine what actions the CHRC representative may take and obtain an estimated cost for their services.

5. The OIC will evaluate and determine the effectiveness of the actions of CHRC field representatives in calming the situation.
 - a. If the ranking command officer believes CHRC field representatives are no longer effective, they will be notified to cease their activity and withdraw.
 - b. The ranking command officer should base this determination on criteria such as an overt action on the part of the crowd, an increase in crowd size, etc.
6. The incident OIC will request CHRC submit a report of their observations and assessment of the incident to the Intelligence Section Commander.
7. District commanders may request CHRC field representatives assist in the resolution of various other community problems.
 - a. District commanders should submit a Form 17 to the Police Chief with the following information:
 - 1) Nature of the problem.
 - 2) Reason for requesting CHRC's assistance.
 - 3) An estimate of the number of work-hours expended by CHRC personnel.